Ramsey Community Center: The COR Center and Greenway Trailhead

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Project Statement

As our project progressed, so did our intentions for the Community Center Plans. These statements guided our creative process and influenced our design choices up until our final product was produced.

❖ Creating Programming that is not tied to trend or time but is creative and intergenerationally attractive in its combination of landscape elements and the built structure of the community center.

❖ Developing a building informed by landscape which will encourage healthy lifestyles and sustainable practices such as walking, carpooling, engaging with nature; through designing an accessible and attractive layout.

❖ Drawing cues from the innate landscape to create programming that is flexible and unique, useful and attractive to promote community gathering, engagement and healthy lifestyles.
Site Context

Our site context plan derives its color coding from the comprehensive map Ramsey created. The colored lines define routes of foot traffic from each of these types of land. The gray dashed lines represent the road traffic approaching the site. These routes aided us in placing the building on the site and the paths that run through it. From this map we can see Ramsey’s connection to the main road as well as to the rest of the city.
Site Plan
We wanted our building to fully interact with the greenway, rather than interrupting it or creating a barrier. Through this perspective we found a way for the greenway to travel through the building, separating the grounded portion into two and connecting it from above. With the form set we programmed each portion of our building with a different purpose.

Community Center
The color key for this map represents the welcoming and energizing nature of the first floor. Containing the retail and interactive portions of the building, the open spaces are meant to guide pedestrians through the building and experiencing the community aspect of the building.
The color key for this floor represents the communication aspect of the center as well as the more creative nature, including the art studio space, day care, and teen room.
The color key for this floor represents the elegant aspect of the event space and the naturalistic outdoor rooms we encourage Ramsey to include in the building. The fitness portion of the building hold the more peaceful parts of a gym, such as yoga and dance studios.
Building Form

Diagram of building form:
- Community Kitchen
- Dining Area
- Retail
- Parking Lot
- Pool
- Locker Rooms
- Running Track
- Exercise Equipment Room
- Indoor courts/Gymnasium
- Fitness Class Rooms
- Outdoor Sports Fields
- Study Room
- Computer and Printing Room
- Community Art Studio
- Gallery
- Community Garden
- Day Care
- Greenway Trailhead
- Bike share
- Picnic Area
- Nature Center/Learning
- Playground
Site context process
Site Process / Circulation Diagrams / Possibilities
The evolution of our site was heavily informed by our desire to create connectivity throughout the site with an emphasis on path connection points. The Northerly portion of the site we propose to be planted and graded much like a parkway naturalized environment. The intentional views created throughout this space in conjunction with the visual barrier it can provide will serve to protect the community center from residential views. We propose a moment where the path crosses over the wetland with a boardwalk. This will engage people in the natural amenity on site and forecast the significance of ecological systems in the Ramsey community.
The building form on site is in response to the wetland formations. The placement of the bioswale close to the southerly road responds to the slight topographical grade change. The community garden plots on the south east corner allow easy access for the future Elderly community just east of the site. Having the trailhead within the center of the site draws those from the parking lot through the building and into the site and allows easy access to those on trail coming from either Lake Itasca, residential areas or The Draw convenient access as well.
Building Process

The following diagrams are revit files in which the building form and interior was designed and finalized.
From these plans we were able to convert the files into illustrator in order to clean them up and label the portions and purposes of each room within the building.
This is a view of the community center from the North West corner access point on site. To the left, naturalized trails and heavily planted forest area. This will give visual and auditory protection to the site as development continues in Ramsey. Bordering the wetland are grasses and other plant materials to help filter water before it enters the wetland.
Thank you!

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